

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE MEDBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:  
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To Medbourne Parish Council and Harborough District Council

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Dated 15 March 2018

Dear Martin and Matthew

## **Medbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan Independent Examination**

Further to my appointment to undertake the Independent Examination of the Medbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan and the speedy handling by Harborough District Council of the set-up matters of appointment and consultancy agreement; plan documentation; and confirmation of both contacts and strategic policies of the Development Plan, I am writing to clarify how I will conduct the examination.

### 1. Communications

It is essential that the examination process is open and transparent to all interested parties. I would be grateful if Harborough District Council and Medbourne Parish Council could publish this email on their respective websites. (I attach a Word version to assist). If you wish to redact any personal email address that will be fine. I will address all future communication to Harborough District Council and send a copy to Medbourne Parish Council. It would be helpful if the Parish Council could channel all communication to me through Harborough District Council, and that, when writing to me, Harborough District Council copies-in the Parish Council. As this is the first time I have emailed Medbourne Parish Council, Martin, as Clerk, could you please acknowledge this message to confirm the communication channel is open.

### 2. Examination documents

Harborough District Council are posting a hard copy of the Submission Plan documents to me. I have access to electronic versions of the Submission Plan documents. I have noted additional evidence base documents are available at <http://medbourne.org.uk/parishcouncil/HTML/NP-neighbourhood-plan.html#Docs> Harborough District Council will, soon after, send me a copy of each of the Regulation 16 representations submitted before the close of the publicity period on Thursday 22 March 2018.

Harborough District Council are also posting me copies of the Core Strategy 2006 to 2028, and of the Local Plan 2011 to 2031 (the latter being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate tomorrow). I have been advised the entire library of documents for the District Council policies is available at <http://www.harborough.gov.uk/planning-strategy>

Subject to my later detailed assessment I have not identified any obvious fundamental flaws in the submission documents that would lead me to advise the examination should not proceed. If I find that there are significant issues which may prevent the Plan meeting the basic conditions I will let you know during the examination.

### 3. Independence

From my initial review of the Plan documents it would appear that there are no conflicts of interest that would call into question my independent status. I will keep that matter under review throughout the examination and in particular when I have sight of the Regulation 16 representations.

### 4. Visit to the Plan area

After I have thoroughly reviewed the Plan documents and representations I intend to visit the plan area as this will assist me in understanding the nature of the Plan and points made in representations and help me decide if there are any issues to be clarified. I will undertake this visit on an unaccompanied basis as it is important that there should be no perception that I have heard additional representations.

### 5. Clarification procedures

I may at any time during the Independent Examination seek written clarification of any matters that I consider necessary. I will direct any request for clarification to Harborough District Council, copying in the Parish Council. Any request for clarification and any response should be published on the Harborough District Council and Medbourne Parish Council websites.

I am proceeding on the basis that the examination can be concluded without the need for a hearing. At any time before I issue my final report I may call a hearing if I consider this is necessary to ensure adequate examination of any issue, or to allow a person a fair chance to put a case.

### 6. Examination timetable

The main determinants of how long the examination will take are firstly the number and complexity of the Plan Policies; the clarity of supporting evidence; and the number and nature of representations. Assuming a hearing will not be necessary I anticipate that within approximately 4 weeks after I receive the Regulation 16

representations I will be able to send a confidential draft of my report to Harborough District Council and Medbourne Parish Council to allow an opportunity to check whether there are any factual errors. This will not be an opportunity for any further representations to be made.

#### 7. Procedural questions

I would be pleased to address any questions relating to the examination process that Harborough District Council or Medbourne Parish Council may have.

Regards

Chris Collison

Independent Examiner

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